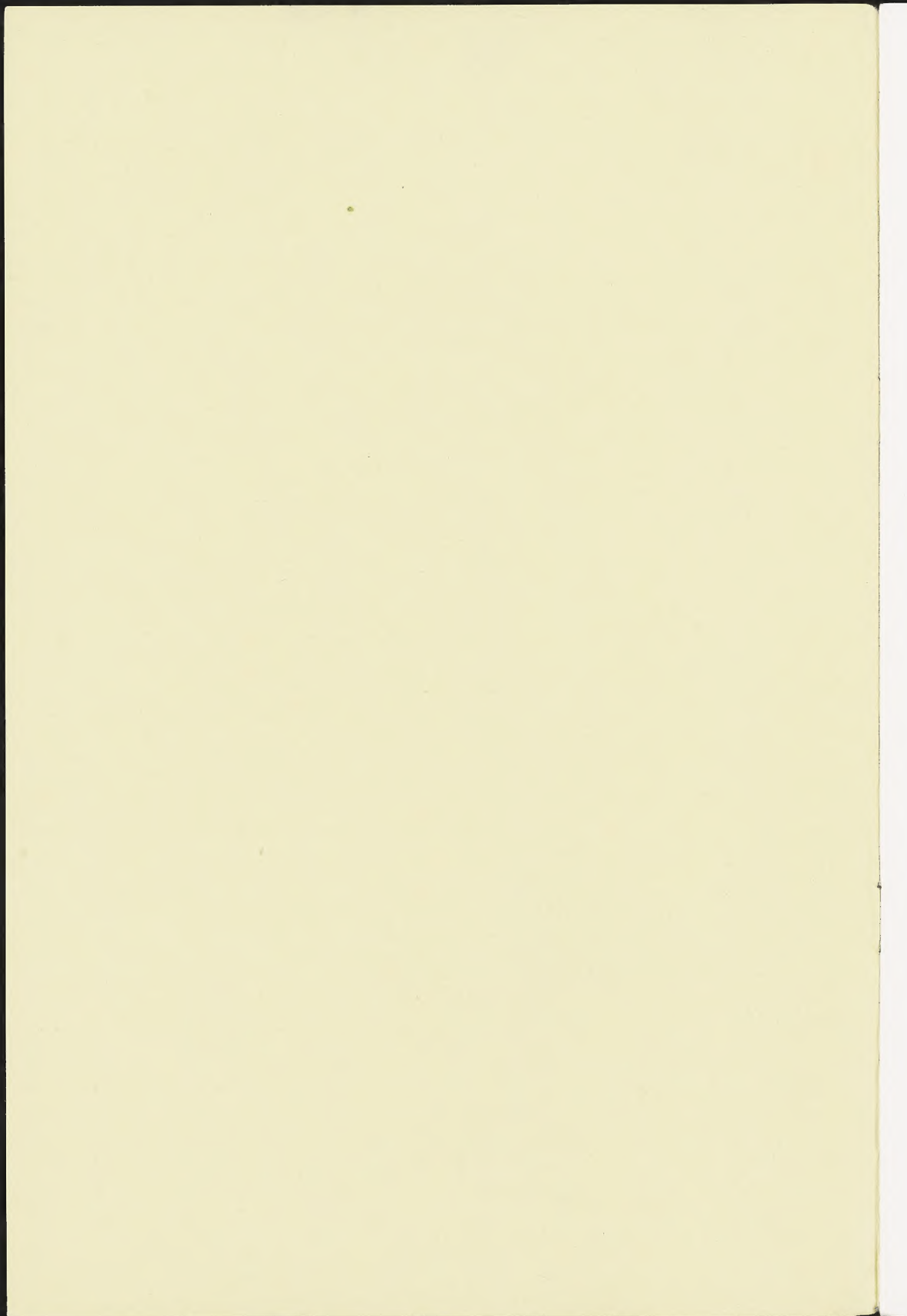


*Bread Loaf
Writers'
Conference*

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN

MAY, 1943

MIDDLEBURY, VT.



BREAD LOAF WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Eighteenth Annual Session

AUGUST 16-28, 1943

Sponsored by

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

THEODORE MORRISON, *Director*



THE STAFF

ROBERT FROST

FLETCHER PRATT

THEODORE MORRISON

PHILIP COHEN

HELEN EVERITT

C. RAYMOND EVERITT

WALTER E. HAVIGHURST

ALAN COLLINS

THE PROGRAM

VERSE

FICTION

ARTICLE WRITING

RADIO SCRIPT WRITING

PUBLICATION ADVICE

Plans for the 1943 Conference are subject to cancellation if war conditions prevent the use of Bread Loaf Inn.

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VOL. XXXVIII

MAY, 1943

No. 3

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PURPOSE

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference began in 1926 as a pioneer attempt to provide for writers opportunities not to be found elsewhere. Since its origin it has served and still serves as a model for similar enterprises in many parts of the country. Its continuous experience and the distinguished roll of its staff members are evidence of its leadership.

Its core is the belief that many writers find it extremely helpful to be able to bring their manuscripts to a group of experienced professionals—writers, teachers, or editors—in surroundings where direct discussion and criticism are easy and pleasant. Its full plan of work provides: (1) informal classroom exposition and discussion of the technical problems of the short story, the novel, verse, articles, writing of radio script; (2) "clinics" for group discussion of manuscripts by Conference members; (3) individual interviews with staff members for criticism of manuscript; (4) surveys and explanations by experts of publishing and marketing problems; (5) critical lectures of general interest on contemporary writers and literary movements.

Thus the Conference is of interest to those who wish general instruction in the main kinds of writing; to those who wish direct criticism of their own manuscripts; to those

who wish information and advice about publishing; and to those who wish to come without manuscripts, simply to hear professional writers and eminent teachers discuss the literary craft. The Conference is specifically designed and planned for those who wish as far as they possibly can to be practising writers; its primary aim is to give them a better conception, a more intelligent understanding, of the craft they wish to work at and of the conditions under which it is professionally practised. The Conference is also of interest to students of contemporary literature in this country, and to teachers, especially to college teachers of composition.

The staff does not take the view that a practising writer can be produced by education, formal training, or criticism; certainly not in two weeks. Nevertheless, the program through the years has proved rewarding in many ways and degrees to different individuals: as a pleasant and stimulating experience; as an aid to the better understanding of the writer's job; as a means of more rapid advancement toward the success of which a given individual is capable; as a source of wise counsel and helpful associations in particular publishing problems, where such problems may arise.



Staff, 1942

BACK ROW: Miss Mirrielees, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Frost, Mr. Untermeyer, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Stegner.

FRONT ROW: Mrs. Everitt, Mr. Eaton, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Collins, Miss Fleury.

STAFF

VERSE

ROBERT FROST

Mr. Frost's association with the Conference began with its origin; he was one of those who helped to guide it at the start, and has continued to give it his intimate support and wise influence. His latest volume of poems, *A Witness Tree*, (Pulitzer Prize, 1943) appeared in the spring of last year.

THEODORE MORRISON

Director.

Mr. Frost will give talks and readings. Mr. Morrison will conduct classroom discussions of verse manuscripts and will give individual interviews for criticism of manuscript.

FICTION

HELEN EVERITT Magazine writer and former literary agent. Contributor to *Harper's*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Ladies Home Journal*.

WALTER E. HAVIGHURST Novelist and member of the English Department at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Author of *Pier 17*, *The Quiet Shore*, *Upper Mississippi: A Wilderness Saga*, *The Winds of Spring*, *No Homeward Course*, and *The Long Ships Passing*.

Mrs. Everitt will have charge of work in the short story. Mr. Havighurst will have charge of work in the novel.

ARTICLE WRITING

FLETCHER PRATT Article writer, editor, military critic. Author of *Ordeal by Fire*; *The Lost Battalion* (in collaboration); *What the Citizen Should Know About Modern War*; and many other books. Contributor of articles to *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Harper's*, *The American Mercury*, *Esquire*, *The Saturday Review of Literature*, and many other magazines. Author of syndicated articles on the strategy of the war.

RADIO SCRIPT WRITING

PHILIP COHEN Formerly chief of the Radio Research Project at the Library of Congress; formerly Production Director of the U. S. Office of Education; first Director of the New York University Radio Workshop; now of the radio division, Office of War Information.

PUBLICATION ADVICE

C. RAYMOND EVERITT Executive Vice-President of Little, Brown & Co.

ALAN COLLINS Literary agent; head of the New York office of Curtis Brown, Ltd.

ADMINISTRATION

THEODORE MORRISON Director. Author of *The Serpent in the Cloud* (narrative poem) and *Notes of Death and Life* (poems). Contributor of reviews, essays, and poems to *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *The Saturday Review of Literature*, *The Virginia Quarterly*, and other magazines.

RICHARD L. BROWN Preliminary manuscript reader and Assistant to the Director.



DATES

The Conference begins with the noon meal on registration day, Monday, August 16. Saturday, August 28, is the last day of scheduled work. For those who cannot conveniently leave Saturday night, the Bread Loaf Inn will serve breakfast and luncheon on Sunday, August 29. Free transportation from Middlebury to Bread Loaf is provided on August 16, and from Bread Loaf to Middlebury on August 28 and 29. Members traveling by train or bus should buy tickets for Middlebury, Vermont. Those who bring manuscripts to Bread Loaf should bring them if possible in their hand luggage, so that they may be submitted to the Director on registration day.



Recreation Room in Barn

Ed Dragon does a step to his brother Dan's fiddle. Mr. Cohen and Mr. Morrison at back and side.

RECREATION AND SURROUNDINGS

Mountain-climbing, tennis, and lawn games are available at or immediately about Bread Loaf Inn. In normal times, riding stables are also accessible, with golf courses at Middlebury, Brandon, or farther afield, and swimming at Lake Dunmore. War conditions may restrict such facilities.

Bread Loaf Inn is a hotel of picturesque history and exceptional situation. It stands in the midst of one of the most magnificent forest tracts in the Eastern states, well up in the Green Mountains, which overlook the Champlain Valley. The nearest community, a few miles down the road, is the village of Ripton, where old-fashioned square dancing thrives with great vitality and annually attracts visitors from Bread Loaf. Because of the altitude, the summers at Bread Loaf are often very cool. Conference members should therefore provide themselves with warm clothing.

FELLOWSHIPS

The Conference offers each year a limited number of fellowships paying all or part of the fees. The fellowships are offered under the following conditions, which should be carefully noted:

1. Personal applications are not accepted.
2. To be considered for a fellowship, each candidate must be *nominated* by a magazine editor, publisher, literary agent, well-known writer, or college teacher. Nomination may be made informally in a letter to the Director, addressed to Warren House, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
3. On receiving each nomination, the Director will write to the candidate recommended. The letter will (a) inform the candidate that he has been nominated; (b) ask the candidate whether he will require a fellowship paying all fees or whether he can come partly at his own expense; (c) ask the candidate whether he can be reasonably certain of attending the session during the announced dates.
4. In the light of the answers to this letter, a committee of the Conference staff will award the fellowships, guided by the following points:
 - a. Ordinarily fellowship holders have tangible achievement to their credit, such as published books or contributions to magazines, or plays or scripts produced. If a candidate has as yet no published or produced work, evidence of editorial interest will be expected.
 - b. The Conference tries to distribute the fellowships so that several of the main professional forms of writing will be represented—verse, magazine fiction, the novel, etc. The Conference tries to give the fellowships to writers who seem likely to profit by them and to contribute by their presence to the success of the Conference as a whole.
5. All nominations for 1943 should be in the Director's hands by June 1.

Among our fellows in recent years have been James Still (proposed by Viking Press); Robert Francis (proposed by Macmillan);

Holmes Alexander (proposed by Harper and Brothers); Eudora Welty (proposed by Katherine Anne Porter); Carson McCullers (proposed by Houghton Mifflin); Vivian Parsons (proposed by Dodd, Mead and Co.); Robert Richards (proposed by *The Atlantic Monthly* and Curtis Brown, Ltd.); Theodore Roethke (proposed by Peter Monro Jack); Harriet Ball (proposed by Harper and Brothers); Dilys Bennett Laing (proposed by Duell, Sloan, & Pearce).

6. For 1943, three full fellowships or the equivalent will be awarded. Two of these are made possible by an anonymous gift; one will be underwritten by the Conference itself.



Fellows, 1942

Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Laing, Mr. Scott

ADMISSION

Two classes of membership in the Conference are offered:

(1) Those who wish to bring manuscripts to Bread Loaf for criticism by the staff should apply for admission as *Contributors*.

(2) Those who do not wish to submit manuscripts should apply for admission as *Auditors*.

1. *Contributors*

Contributors are asked to submit examples of their work, published or unpublished, *at the time of application*. The object of asking for these examples is to provide as far as possible that contributing members of the Conference shall be likely to profit by the criticism of the staff. Those who do not seem likely to profit by staff criticism will be advised not to enroll as *Contributors*.

Admission as a *Contributor* should in no sense be taken as an indication of the sort of criticism which the applicant should expect from staff members after reaching Bread Loaf. Nor should it be taken as a judgment on the merits or promise of the work submitted. It represents only the careful but not infallible opinion of a preliminary manuscript reader that the applicant may reasonably expect to profit as a writer by the instruction, criticism, and associations of Bread Loaf.

No criticism of any manuscript will be given before the Conference begins.

2. *Auditors*

Auditors may attend all lectures, discussions, "clinics," and other general meetings of the Conference. They may not submit manuscripts for staff criticism; otherwise their privileges are in no way different from those of Contributors.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION

1. Write for application blanks to Language Schools Office, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

2. If you desire admission as a *Contributor*, forward examples of your published or unpublished work at the same time that you return your application blank. As much material may be submitted as you feel is necessary to represent fairly the range and quality of your work.

All manuscripts must be clearly typewritten, and will be returned only if accompanied by full postage or clear directions for return

by express collect. A full and clear address should be written on all manuscripts as well as on all letters. Address your application, with manuscript, to Richard L. Brown, Assistant to the Director, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Middlebury, Vermont. (Do *not* address correspondence to Bread Loaf, Vermont, before August 16.)

Some time may pass before manuscripts can be returned, and it will therefore be an advantage to keep copies.

3. If you desire admission as an *Auditor*, return your application, without manuscript, to Richard L. Brown. Take care to indicate that you wish admission as *Auditor*.

FEES

1. For *Contributors*:

The charge for membership in the Conference for *Contributors* is \$100.00, plus the charge for a room in the Bread Loaf Inn or one of the cottages. The fee of \$100.00 includes charges for tuition and board for the duration of the Conference. Rooms may be had at a cost of \$8.00 to \$42.00 for the full term. Address all correspondence in regard to rooms to Miss Virginia Ingalls, Language Schools Office, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont. A deposit of \$5.00 should be made with her on or before August 1. *Make all checks payable to Middlebury College. No refunds can be made in case of cancellation.*

2. For *Auditors*:

The charge for *Auditors* is \$75.00 plus room charges. *Auditors* may enroll for one week at \$50.00 plus room charges, but otherwise there will be no deduction for part-time attendance.

Any person whose application for membership in the Conference has been accepted, and who has accordingly contracted for board and tuition on this understanding, will be required to abide by this arrangement after reaching Bread Loaf. The Conference, however, reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any member.

Bread Loaf School of English

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

Aug. 9 to Sept. 4, 1943 HEWETTE E. JOYCE, Acting Director

A GRADUATE SCHOOL LIMITED IN NUMBERS, OFFERING A WIDE SELECTION OF COURSES IN LITERARY HISTORY, TEACHING OF ENGLISH, AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LITERATURE, ALL LEADING TO THE M.A. DEGREE. BREAD LOAF PROVIDES A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMBINING A SUMMER VACATION IN THE HEART OF THE GREEN MOUNTAINS WITH STUDY UNDER NATIONALLY FAMOUS INSTRUCTORS.

FACULTY

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|---|--|
| William Dighton, <i>Queens College</i> | Lucia B. Mirrielees, <i>University of Montana</i> |
| Elizabeth Drew, formerly of <i>Cambridge University</i> | Thomas Marc Parrott, <i>Princeton University</i> |
| Hewett E. Joyce, <i>Dartmouth College</i> | James Southall Wilson, <i>University of Virginia</i> |

COURSES

The Teaching of English, Early English Drama, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, English Poetry and Prose of the Seventeenth Century, The Victorian Poets, The Nineteenth Century English Novel, English Romantic Poets, The American Novel, Contemporary English and American Poetry.

For further information and bulletins address

HEWETTE E. JOYCE, *Acting Director*
Middlebury, Vermont

